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On the whole, apart from Part I, which might well be used in the classroom as an introduction to the study of elementary economics, it may be said of the work that its chief value lies not on the academic side, but on the side of the suggestiveness of its reasoning and of its inspiring moral tone to the more thoughtful portion of the general public.

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Social Origins. By ANDREW LANG. *Primal Law.* By J. J. ATKINSON. Pp. xviii, 311. Price, \$3.60. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1903.

As the above titles indicate, this work contains the investigations of two authors. As there is no necessary dependence of the two parts it matters not which is read first. "Primal Law" traces society upward from some apelike ancestor, while the law itself is the fundamental principle in accordance with which man and society have evolved. In "Social Origins" Mr. Lang deals with "the present state of the discussion as to the beginning of the rules regulating marriage among savages," and in doing so he presents the views of McLennan, Morgan, Crawley, Frazer, Spencer, Tylor, Avebury, Westermarck, Durkheim and others. The author has views of his own which he states with clearness and force. For instance, he claims that exogamy became fully developed "when the hitherto anonymous groups, coming to be known by totem names, evolved the totem superstitions and tabus." Prior to this, it only tended to arise for various reasons, among which are enumerated sexual jealousy, sexual superstition and "sexual indifference to persons familiar from infancy." It will be seen that this view is opposed to the one presented by Mr. Atkinson in the second part of the book.

In "Primal Law," Mr. Atkinson bases his theory on the assumption that our anthropoid ancestor was unsocial. He believes that the human race descended from a single pair, and promiscuity in the primitive stage is rejected as improbable. The ancestor of man, it is asserted, lived in small communities, each with a single wife or several who were jealously guarded from all other men. Male members of the family grown to adolescence were objects of suspicion, and were driven from the group. Finally mother love asserted itself in defence of the youngest male child, and he was allowed to remain. However, this younger male member of the family was retained only on condition that the marital rights of the senior would be respected as extending over all the women of the horde. Brother and sister avoidance became absolute. Marriage of the junior member would depend upon the capture of a wife in another group and here appears the origin of exogamy. "Hence comes the evident corollary to the argument that the primal law and exogamy stand to each other in the mutual relation of cause and effect."²² By degrees, male members would be permitted to remain in the family, and these in turn would secure brides from another horde. With the growth of intelligence, the marital relations of the head of a family with the daughters

²² Page 247.

ceased, and brothers began to exchange their sisters for brides. In brief, this is the theory of J. J. Atkinson of the origin of marriage and endogamy—a theory as novel as it is interesting.

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Early Political Machinery in the United States. By GEORGE D. LUETSCHER, Ph. D. Pp. 160. Price, \$1.00. Published by the author, George School, Pa., 1903.

Although popular interest in our nominating systems has greatly increased in recent years, comparatively little aside from propaganda literature has appeared on the subject. Dahlinger's standard work and that of Dr. Meyer in advocacy of direct primaries are the principal important exceptions. Dr. Luetscher's monograph, although entitled "Political Machinery," in reality deals primarily with the methods of nomination practiced up to 1825. He shows that the nationalizing of parties during Washington's second administration marked the beginning of a revolution in the methods of nomination and political campaigning. "Before this time," he says, "politics and office-holding were confined to the 'well-born,' who constituted the enlightened minority, and, as a consequence, the greatest apathy and indifference prevailed among the individual electors regarding the selection of candidates to office and the exercise of suffrage. . . . The nation was, therefore, inexperienced in democratic organization, when the administrative measures of Hamilton supplied a permanent issue upon which the people took sides." The Republicans being the newer party and having to make the most strenuous efforts for popular favor were naturally the first to adopt new methods. Nearly all the leading newspapers were Federal in sympathy. The wealth of the country and such advantage as came from political patronage at the time were favorable to the older party. Necessarily, therefore, the Republicans devoted their attention to a distinctly popular method of nominating candidates. At first the mass-meeting was the principal method adopted, but as larger numbers of the people were appealed to a more representative form of party organization had to be evolved, and the convention system came into existence. By the nature of the case the New England and Southern States were backward in adopting this new plan. In New England the town candidates were chosen in mass-meeting of the town; the state candidates were chosen by the general legislative caucus, as throughout the rest of the country. In addition to this the New England Federal leaders were opposed to any extensive party organization in peaceful times. They regarded the formation of party committees, conventions, and such machinery, as an emergency measure which might well be adapted to the vicissitudes of a revolution, but hardly permissible after the emergency had passed. In the Southern States the aristocratic cast of politics had led to traditions which forbade any extensive popular agitation. The leaders of thought largely dictated nominations. It was, therefore, in the Middle States, where popular election of county officers had become the tradition, that a county convention was first developed. Such was the efficiency of the early county convention in enlist-